

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on **April 26, 2004** the Examiner reviewed claims 1-30. The abstract was objected to because of superfluous language. Claims 1-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-30 were provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-30 of co-pending Application No. 09/996,227.

Objections to the Abstract

The abstract was objected to because of superfluous language.

Applicant has amended the Abstract to remove the superfluous language.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §101 and 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 1-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the term “can be” in claims 1, 11, and 21 is indefinite.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 11, and 21 to change the indefinite term “can be” to the definite term “is.”

Claims 1-30 were provisionally rejected as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-30 of co-pending Application No. 09/996,227.

Co-pending Application No. 09/996,227 has been abandoned, thereby obviating the 35 U.S.C. §101 rejection.

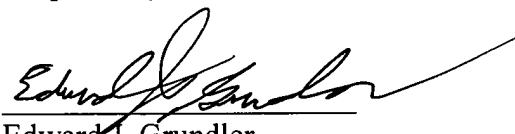
Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 11, and 21 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 2-10, which depend upon claim 1, claims 12-21, which depend upon claim 11, and claims 22-30, which depend upon claim 21, are for the

same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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